

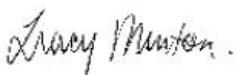
Pastoral Relations Ponderings – Volume 54

Welcome to the work of Pastoral Relations in Living Skies Regional Council. This is the place to find the most recent information about the Committees and event dates for the fall. Happy reading!

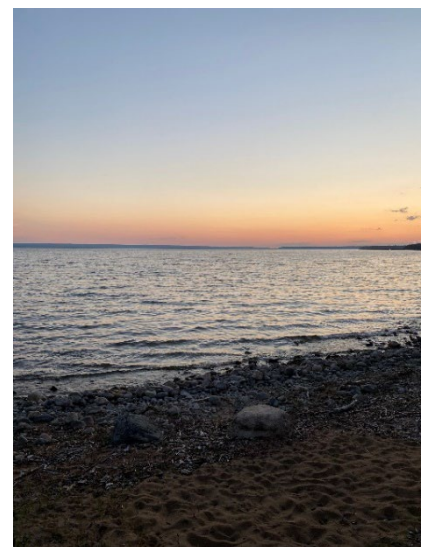
1. **An update from the Committee on Community of Faith Support** – We are still receiving copies of annual reports. Please send a copy so that we might offer adequate and appropriate support! There is a new group of people serving on this committee so if there are particular ways we might work together with you that you have not yet experienced, let us know as we re-imagine the mandate of this committee!
2. **An update from the Committee on Lay Leadership Support** – The next phase of support and accountability for our Licensed Lay Worship Leaders will begin in the fall. Stay tuned for how you can help support these important folks in our Regional Council! We will also be exploring whether there is a need for Sacraments Elder training in the fall – let us know if the training would be welcome for you or someone you know!
3. **An update from the Committee on Ministry Personnel Support** – Fall ministry personnel retreats will be on November 5 (somewhere in the east) and November 7 (somewhere in the west), with leadership by Laura Fohse, Office of Vocation minister. Stay tuned for further details. We will also be exploring ways to support our retired ministry personnel and as always, welcome your suggestions.
4. **A note for ministry and personnel committees** – Online training for M&P Committees will be on Thursday, October 10 in the evening. This will be a refresher for folks continuing in this role, and would also be appropriate for people just beginning. Contact Bev Diebert at bdiebert@united-church.ca to register.
5. **A note about Equipping the Saints** – this initiative of our two hospital chaplains, Lorna King and Emily Carr, has provided training opportunities for lay people engaged in pastoral visiting. The next date will be October 16, 1:00-2:30pm. Contact Bev Diebert at bdiebert@united-church.ca to add your name to the list. Anyone is welcome to attend, whether this is your first opportunity to join or not.

It is a tremendous privilege to work for The United Church of Canada. Engagement with fabulous staff colleagues, dedicated volunteers, and deeply faithful church folk comprise the bulk of my days. Conversations range from hard to playful, each one a piece of the fabric of our Regional Council. One of the gifts of this work is the provision for sabbatical every 5 years. As I head into this time, I want to acknowledge the extra work that will be placed on the shoulders of others. Be gentle and judicious: if you have questions, you can pass those along to Bev Diebert, who will forward to the appropriate colleague as required. However, as an extrovert, I will also be happy to chat with you in October. :-) May you find moments of spaciousness and rest, renewal and sabbath, and wide, open space with family and friends, wherever these summer months take you.

Blessings and peace,



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Sunset, July 15, 2023 – Waskesiu Lake